

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 DRC-01 OPR-02 /136 W

----- 033715

R 261020Z JUN 74

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2679

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LOURENCO MARQUES 0511

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, MZ

SUBJECT: MINERS KILLED IN BORDER INCIDENT

REF: LOURENCO MARQUES 319 AND 376 (NOTAL)

1. GROUP OF 800 MINERS RETURNING BY TRAIN TO MOZAMBIQUE AFTER COMPLETING CONTRACTS IN SOUTH AFRICA ATTEMPTED EVADE CUSTOMS CONTROL AT RESSANO GARCIA BORDER POINT MORNING OF JUNE 25, AND STONED TROOPS CALLED TO RESTORE ORDER. TROOPS, AFTER FIRING WARNING SHOTS, ULTIMATELY FIRED ON RIOTING CROWD, KILLING SEVEN AND WOUNDING (MOSTLY IN LEGS) SIX. ACCORDING TO MILITARY REPORT PUBLISHED JUNE 26, MINERS WERE STIRRED UP BY TWO AGITATORS (SUBSEQUENTLY ARRESTED) WHO ALLEGEDLY TOLD MINERS THAT BULLETS COULDN'T HURT THEM. REPORT SAYS AUTHORITIES SEEKING FIND WAYS OF ELIMINATING PROBLEMS CAUSED BY RETURNING MINERS.

2. THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL INCIDENTS SINCE APRIL 25 REVO-
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LUTION, THOUGH LESS SERIOUS, OF RETURNING MINERS REFUSING

CUSTOMS INSPECTION AT RESSANO GARCIA (REFTELS), AND TROOPS WERE THEREFORE ASSIGNED THERE. MINERS ARE TRANSPORTED BY OFFICIAL RECRUITING FIRM, WENELA, WHICH OPERATES TWO TRAINS PER WEEK BETWEEN MOZAMBIQUE AND THE RAND, BRINGING HOME MINERS WHO HAVE COMPLETED CONTRACTS AND TAKING OUT NEW RECRUITS. SINCE REVOLUTION SOME MINERS HAVE GOT NOTION THEY SHOULD NO LONGER BE SUBJECT TO CUSTOMS INSPECTION, WHICH SOMETIMES RESULTS IN CONFISCATION OR TAXATION OF ARTICLES BOUGHT (OR STOLEN) IN SOUTH AFRICA.

3. LOCAL WENELA DIRECTOR CONFIRMED PUBLISHED ACCOUNT OF INCIDENT, ADDING THAT TROOPS HAD FIRED ONLY UNDER EXTREME PROVOCATION.

4. COMMENT: PROBLEM SEEMS LIKELY TO PERSIST, AT LEAST AS LONG AS MINERS ARE TRANSPORTED IN SUCH LARGE AND POTENTIALLY UNRULY GROUPS.
REED

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 26 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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30 JUN 2005

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TAGS: ELAB, PINT, PINS, MZ, SF
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